

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 1-38 and 42-57 without prejudice or disclaimer as follows:

1-38. (Canceled)

39. (Original) A method of strip identification, said method comprising:

inserting a strip into a meter, said strip including an auto-on conductor, said meter being in a sleep mode;

said meter detecting said strip, by detecting a current flow through said auto-on conductor, and responsively entering an active mode;

said meter measuring a voltage drop across said auto-on conductor;

said meter identifying said strip as either a test strip or a check strip based on said voltage drop;

if said strip is a test strip, said meter performing a test strip sequence; and

if said strip is a check strip, said meter performing a check strip sequence.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein said meter identifies said strip as a test strip if said voltage drop is below a predetermined value.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 40, wherein said meter identifies said strip as a ~~quality control strip~~ check strip if said voltage drop is above said predetermined value.

42-57. (Canceled)